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Citizenship and Culture

Affaires civiques et culturelles

Provincial and Regional Native Organizations in Ontario

A Brief Introduction

Symbol

Traditionally
the council fire provided
a central focus around which Native
meetings were held.

The symbol itself is based
on the Woodland Indian adaptation of
18th century European designs for
use on early trade silver.

Many western designs were
transformed by Native crafts people
and continue to be used today
in the production of silver jewelry
in Ontario. The logo was first developed
by the Native Community Branch in 1971
to mark the establishment of the
Meeting Fund whereby Native groups and
Government of Ontario representatives
could come together to discuss
issues of mutual concern.

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Information was supplied for this booklet by the organizations.
It does not necessarily reflect ministry or government policy.

Minister's Preface

Throughout Ontario, several Native organizations are working to promote and protect the social, cultural, political and economic interests of our Native Peoples.

My Ministry's Native Community Branch works closely with these Native organizations as they address issues ranging from heritage preservation to the establishment of viable businesses.

This directory has been developed by the Branch as a handy reference for both Government and the general public. It provides basic information about the objectives, membership and programs of nine major Native organizations in the province.

We hope it will contribute to a better understanding of the aspirations of Native people in Ontario and facilitate new communications links with our Native population.

Lily Munro

Minister
Ministry of Citizenship and Culture

Background

Who Are The Native Peoples of Ontario?

The Native population in Ontario is composed of Status Indians, Non-Status Indians, Metis and Inuit peoples. Because Status Indians have a special relationship with the federal government under the *Indian Act*, they are required to register with what is now called Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Reliable data (population numbers, education levels, socio-economic circumstances) is available for this group.

There is a lack of comparable data on Metis and Non-Status Indians; one reason is that they are not covered under the *Indian Act* and there is no formal mechanism in place for recording data. In addition, there is no legal or broadly accepted definition of who constitutes this group and therefore estimates of population vary widely. For example, in the 1981 Census, 38,775 persons identified themselves as Metis and/or Non-Status; the Ontario Metis Non-Status Indian Association estimates the number to be 185,000 persons. More detailed information on Native people is presented in A Profile of Native People in Ontario, published by the Native Community Branch.

Status Indians

The most recent data available on Status Indians in Ontario is the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada 1984 Band list. At that time there were 127 registered Bands and 77,313 Status Indians.

Non-Status Indians

In general, this group is composed of Indian people or their descendants who have given up or lost their Indian status for reasons that have changed with the various amendments to the *Indian Act*. For example, before 1960, an Indian person had to give up Status in exchange for the right to vote. Anyone who completed a university education or professional training automatically lost Status, as did those who served in the Armed Forces of Canada during WWI.

In the past, a Status Indian woman who married a non-Indian man lost her status. However, this was not the case for Indian men. The federal government has taken steps to address this inequity. In 1985, the federal government amended section 12(1)(b) of the *Indian Act*. Under the amendment, Indian women who marry non-Indian men will not lose their status; the amendment will also restore status to women who had previously married non-Indian men.

In the 1981 Census, 14,130 persons in Ontario identified themselves as Non-Status Indians; an additional 16,115 persons said they were both Non-Status and Metis.

Metis

In addition to the group that identified as both Metis and Non-Status Indians, 8,530 persons identified themselves as Metis. There is a significant debate about who is a Metis; one definition is that the Metis are those descendants of the historic Red River Valley Metis community. Another definition refers to anyone of mixed aboriginal ancestry who is not Indian or Inuit.

Native People on Reserve

There are 77,313 registered Status Indians in Ontario, but only 50,302 or 65 per cent live on reserves and are governed by a local Band Council.[1]

These bands are represented by a number of treaty organizations such as the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, Grand Council Treaty No. 3, Nishnawbe-Aski, and Union of Ontario Indians. Some bands are not affiliated with any major treaty organizations. The Ontario Native Women's Association represents the interests of Native women who live on and off reserves.

Native People off Reserves

Approximately 27,011 or 35 per cent of Ontario's Status Indians live off reserves.[2] In addition, the Metis and Non-Status Indians whose population is estimated at between 50,000 and 185,000[3] live in rural and urban communities.

They are served by a number of local Native organizations such as Indian Friendship Centres, Ontario Native Women Anishnabequeks and Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Locals.

These local organizations in turn are represented by the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, the Ontario Native Women's Association, and the Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association.

1 Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Development, Registered Band Population as at December 1984.

2 Ibid.

3 Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, Metis and Non-Status Indians of Ontario 1980.

Chiefs of Ontario Office

General Description

In March 1975, at the First Annual All Ontario Chiefs' Conference, a Joint Status Indian Association Committee was formed constituting an unincorporated federation of the four major Ontario status Indian organizations. The purpose of the committee was to provide a single Ontario representative to the Assembly of First Nations. From this committee emerged the Chiefs of Ontario Office whose basic purpose is to enable the four status Indian associations to discuss and to decide on regional, provincial, and national priorities affecting Indian people in Ontario and to provide a unified voice on these issues. The Chiefs of Ontario Office has become a vehicle for Ontario Government/Indian consultation on matters pertaining to Indian people in Ontario.

Membership

The activities of the office are governed by a Planning and Priorities Committee composed of the President and Grand Chiefs of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, Grand Council Treaty No. 3, and Union of Ontario Indians. A representative of the Independent Nations also sits on the Committee. The Chiefs of Ontario Office represents all Status Indians in Ontario.

Organizational Objectives

The main objective of the Chiefs of Ontario Office is to facilitate the discussion, planning, implementation and evaluation of all local, regional, provincial and national matters affecting the Indian people of Ontario. The intention of basing the central office in Toronto is to maintain for Status Indian people in Ontario a presence which is non-governmental and non-political in order to communicate with government officials on an urgency basis.[1]

Activities

The Chiefs of Ontario Office is operated by the executive director who is responsible for establishing and maintaining liaison and communications between both levels of government and the executive council. The Office is actively involved in Provincial/ Federal/Indian Tripartite discussions.

Contact

For further information please contact:

Executive Director
Chiefs of Ontario Office
2 Carlton Street
Suite 1411
Toronto, Ontario M5B 1J3
Telephone: (416) 596-0618

1 Chiefs of Ontario, 1978.

Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI)

General Description

The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians is an umbrella organization which represents the interest of eight Bands (First Nations) in Southern Ontario. The Association was formed in August 1969, primarily as a political organization.

Band (First Nations) Membership

The following Bands (First Nations) are members of the Association[1]

1 Oneidas of the Thames
2 Mohawks of Gibson
3 Ojibway of Hiawatha
4 Moravian of the Thames
5 Ojibway of Walpole Island
6 Ojibway of Batchewana (Sault Ste. Marie)
7 Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
8 Mississaugas of the Credit

Geographic Area

The majority of Bands (First Nations) in the Association are located in southern Ontario within the watershed of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Batchewana is located in the Sault Ste. Marie area while Gibson is located near Georgian Bay on Lake Huron.

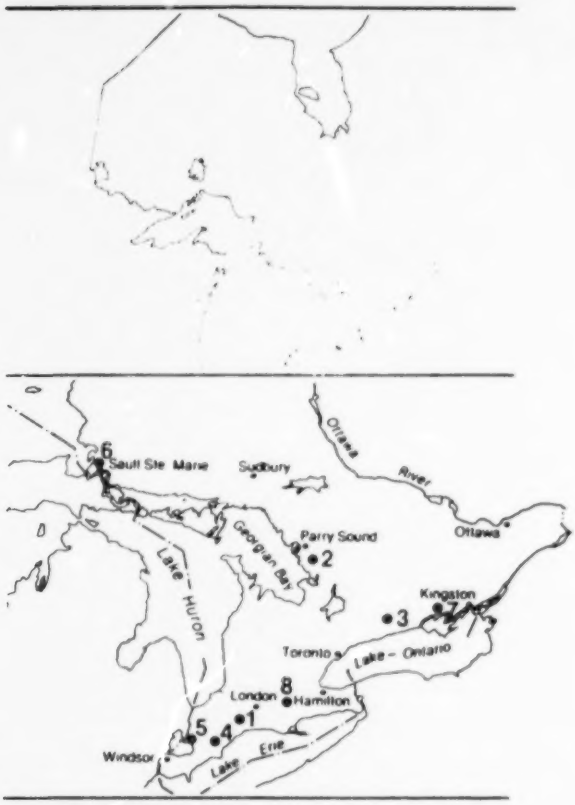
Population Represented

The total registered population of the above-mentioned reserves in June 1986 was 10,199. Of that approximately 60% live on reserve and 40% live off reserve.[2]

Organizational Objectives

The objectives of AIAI are as follows:[3]

a) "To represent its members in consultation and negotiation with the several levels of government on matters of common interest and concern.
b) "To support any member Band in the presentation of any right, claim or demand which it may have before proper form to adjust or settle such right, claim or demand if so requested.
c) "To promote the Cultural, Economic and Educational Development of its members.
d) "To affiliate with such organization or organizations as to assist this organization to obtain its objectives."



Organizational Programs

AIAI provides a number of basic services to its member Bands (First Nations). It has a Treaty Research Program and policy analysts in the areas of Constitutional Analysis, Tripartite Negotiations, Social Services, Health and Alcohol and Drug Prevention.

Contact

For further Information please contact:

President or Executive Director,
Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Head Office:
Oneida Reserve
R.R. 2
Southwold, Ontario N0L 2G0
(519) 652-3251

London Office:
920 Commissioners Rd. East
London, Ontario N5Z 3J1
(519) 681-3551
Telex: 064-7101

1 Chiefs of Ontario, 1981.
2 Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI), June 1986.
3 Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, Constitution, 1974.

Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT #3)

General Description

Treaty No. 3 was signed in 1873 by the Canadian Government and the Ojibway Nations of what is now known as Northwestern Ontario. Grand Council Treaty No. 3 was incorporated in 1971 and has a membership of 25 reserves. Its Board of Directors consists of twenty-five Chiefs and has an Executive Council composed of the Grand Chief and three Tribal Area Chiefs from the three main areas of the Treaty: Kenora, Dryden and Fort Frances.

Band Membership

The following Bands are members of the organization:[1]

Kenora Area

1 Dalles
2 Grassy Narrows
3 Islington
4 Northwest Angle No. 33
5 Northwest Angle No. 37
6 Rat Portage
7 Washagamis Bay
8 Shoal Lake No. 39
9 Shoal Lake No. 40
10 Whitefish Bay

Dryden Area

11 Eagle Lake
12 Lac Des Milles Lac
13 Lac Seul
14 Wabauskang
15 Wabigoon

Fort Frances Area

16 Big Grassy
17 Big Island
18 Couchiching
19 Lac La Croix
20 Naicatchewenin
21 Rainy River
22 Nicickousemenecaning
23 Onegaming
24 Seine River
25 Stangecoming

1 Grand Council Treaty No. 3, 1986

Geographic Area

The area of Treaty No. 3 runs from southeast Manitoba to east of Dryden, from the Canada/United States border to the 50th parallel.

Population Represented

The total registered population of the 25 Bands is 8,871. Of that total 5,485 people live on reserve and 3,386 people live off reserve.[1]

Organizational Objectives

The main objective of GCT No. 3 is to protect and procure the rights of Indian people in the twenty-five reserves of the Council. These rights encompass land, hunting and trapping, resource protection, health and economic development. They also include residual and human rights.[2]

Organizational Programs

Grand Council Treaty No. 3 is engaged in the following programs.[3]

- Community and Economic Development Program
- Education Program
- Treaty Research
- Housing Program
- Health Program
- Indian Government Program
- Native Inmate Liaison Program
- Social Services Program
- Wild Rice Liaison Program

Contact

For further information please contact:

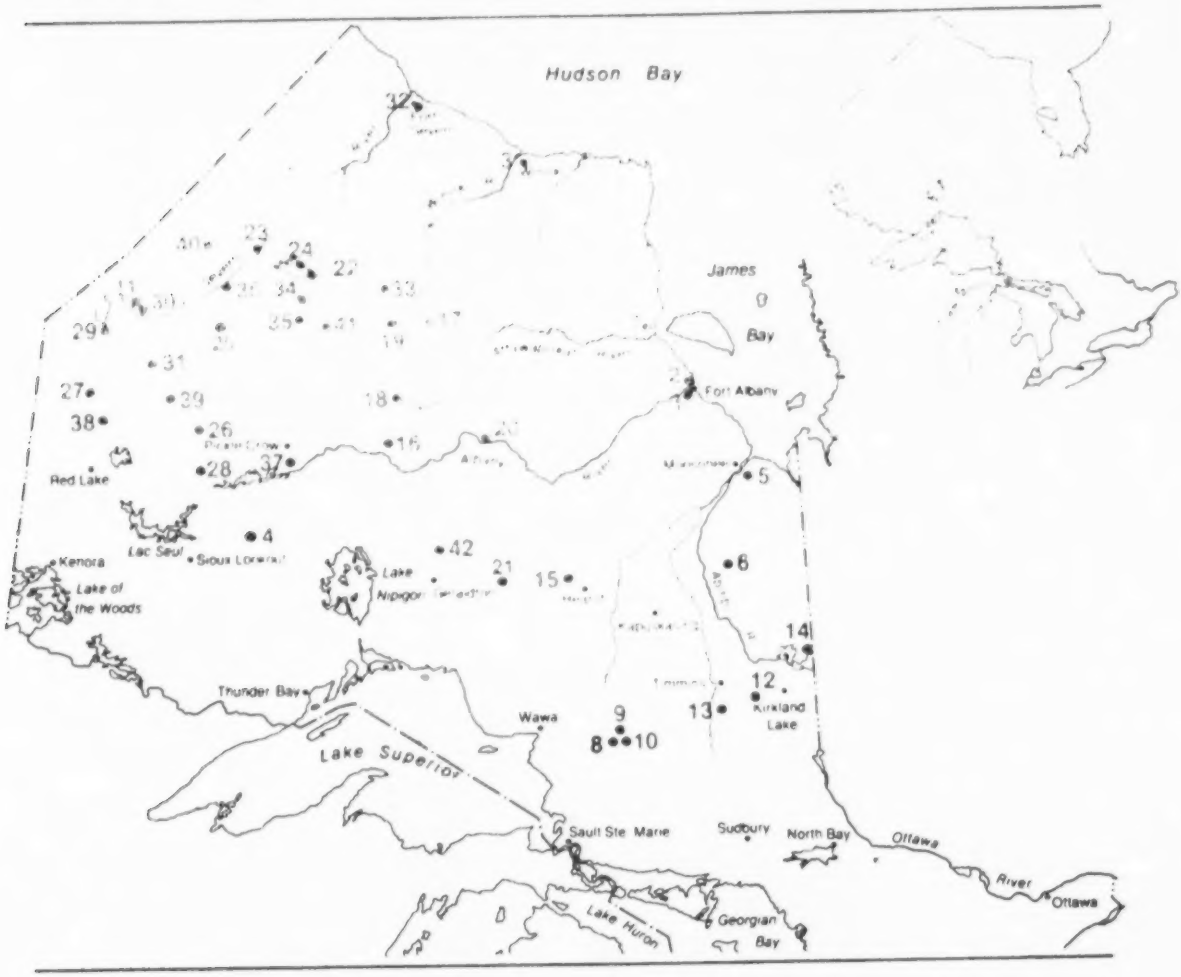
Grand Chief or Executive Director
Grand Council Treaty No. 3
P.O. Box 1720
Kenora, Ontario P9N 3X7
Telephone: 1 (807) 548-4214

1 Grand Council Treaty No. 3, 1984
2 Grand Council Treaty No. 3, 1978
3 Grand Council Treaty No. 3, 1986

Nishnawbe – Aski Nation (NAN)

General Description

Treaty No. 9 was signed in 1905-6 by the Canadian Government, the Ontario Government and the Cree-Ojibway Nations of what is now known as Northern Ontario. Adhesions were added in 1929 and 1930. Grand Council Treaty No. 9 was formed in February 1973 and in 1981 the name was changed to Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. The main objective of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation is to represent the socio-economic and political aspirations of Treaty No. 9 people. All bands located in 42 communities are represented by Nishnawbe-Aski Nation.



Band Membership

The following Bands are members of the organization:[1]

1 Fort Albany
2 Kashechewan
3 Winisk
4 Saugeen Nation
5 Moose Factory
6 New Post
7 Attawapiskat
8 Brunswick House
9 Chapleau Ojibway
10 Chapleau Cree
11 Keewaywin
12 Matachewan
13 Mattagami
14 Wahgoshing
15 Constance Lake
16 Fort Hope
17 Webequie
18 Lansdowne House
19 Summer Beaver
20 Marten Falls
21 Long Lac No. 77
22 Wapekeka
23 Bearskin Lake
24 Big Trout Lake
25 Caribou Lake
26 Cat Lake
27 Poplar Hill
28 Slate Falls
29 Deer Lake
30 Sandy Lake
31 North Spirit Lake
32 Fort Severn
33 Kasabonika Lake
34 Wawakapewin
35 Kingfisher Lake
36 Muskrat Dam Lake
37 Osnaburgh
38 Pikangikum
39 MacDowell Lake
40 Sachigo Lake
41 Wunnumin Lake
42 Aroland

1. Nishnawbe-Aski Nation 1986.

Geographic Area

The area of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation runs from the Manitoba to Quebec borders within the Hudson's and James Bay watershed. The 42 communities represented by Nishnawbe-Aski Nation are scattered throughout this area. The Treaty area includes the districts of Cochrane, Timiskaming, Sudbury, Algoma, Thunder Bay and Kenora.

Population Represented

The estimated population of the 42 communities is approximately 20,000. All communities are "Bands" within the meaning of the *Indian Act*.[1]

Organizational Objectives

The main purpose and objectives of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation are to represent the legitimate socio-economic and political aspirations of our people to all levels of government in Canada and Ontario until such time as real, effective action is taken to remedy the problems, and to permit the forces of local self-determination to establish our spiritual, cultural, social and economic independence.[2]

Organizational Structure

Nishnawbe-Aski Nation is a political affiliation of all Ontario Bands within the Nishnawbe-Aski territories.

The Board of Directors of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation is comprised of the 42 Chiefs of the Nation.

The Board of Directors elect, for a three-year term, a six-member Executive Council who are charged with the task of representing the Member Chiefs, Councils and Bands of the Nation in the political arenas.

Geographically, the 42 Bands of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation are grouped into six Tribal Council areas known as:

1. Central Tribal Council
2. Shibogama Area Tribal Council
3. Muskegog Cree Council
4. Pehtabun Chiefs' Tribal Council
5. Wabun Tribal Council
6. Windigo Chiefs' Tribal Council

Each area elects a Tribal Council Chairman who represents the Bands within that Tribal Council area.

The Nishnawbe-Aski Nation organization represents the political interest of the Bands and Tribal Councils of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation at the provincial and federal levels of government.

The Tribal Councils and their Chairmen represent the interests of their Tribal Council Bands at the regional level.

The Chiefs and Councils manage and control their own affairs at the Band level.

Program Areas

Administration

Political and Policy Research

Technical Services and Research

Community Liaison

The Nishnawbe-Aski Nation maintains a continuous liaison with all levels of the provincial and federal governments on behalf of the Chiefs, Councils and communities of the NAN. It also acts as a facilitator and coordinator of the directions as expressed by the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Chiefs in their general conferences. The NAN administration office coordinates individual Chief's requests for meetings with governments and coordinates the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation All Chiefs' Assemblies, including attendance at National Assemblies.

Contact

For further information please contact:

Grand Chief or Executive Director
Nishnawbe-Aski Nation
14 College Street
Sixth Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 1K2

Telephone: (416) 920-2376

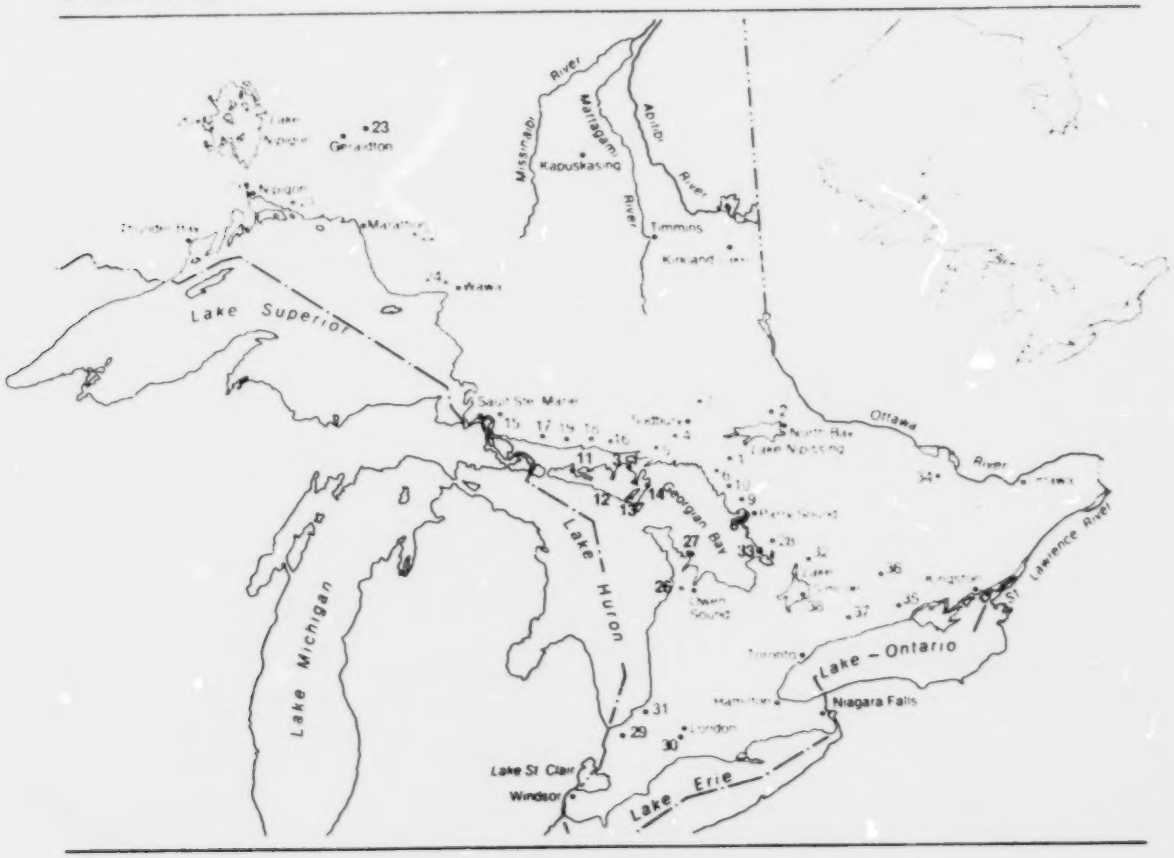
1 Nishnawbe-Aski Nation 1986
2 Grand Council Treaty No. 9, Basic Issues and Priorities, Timmins 1977

Anishinabek Nation
Union of Ontario Indians (UOI)

General Description

The Union of Ontario Indians is the oldest political Native organization in Ontario. It was formed in 1919 and its roots can be traced as far back as the mid 1800's. During that time, the organization was known as the Grand General Indian Council of Ontario. Not until 1947 was the association reorganized and renamed the Union of Ontario Indians.

The Union represents the interests of 38 First Nations along Lake Superior, Georgian Bay and in Southern Ontario.



Membership

The following First Nations are members of the Union.[1]

Robinson Huron Region

(North Shore, Georgian Bay, Lake Huron)

1 Dokis	5 Whitefish River	9 Shawanaga	13 Sheguiandah	17 Thessalon
2 Nipissing	6 Henvey Inlet	10 Magnetawan	14 Wikwemikong	18 Serpent River
3 Sucker Creek	7 Wahnapitae	11 Sheshegwaning	15 Garden River	19 Mississauga
4 Whitefish Lake	8 Parry Island	12 West Bay	16 Spanish River	

Lake Superior Region

(North Shore, Lake Superior)

20 Gull Bay	22 Pic Mobert	24 Michipicoten
21 Pays Plat	23 Long Lac No. 58	25 Lake Helen

1 Union of Ontario Indians 1986

Southwest Region

26 Saugeen
27 Chippewas of Nawash
28 Moose Deer Point
29 Chippewas of Sarnia
30 Muncey of the Thames
31 Kettle Point & Stoney Point

Southeast Region

32 Chippewas of Rama
33 Beausoliel
34 Golden Lake
35 Alderville
36 Curve Lake
37 Mississaugas of Scugog
38 Chippewas of Georgina Island

Geographic Area

The 6 First Nations in the Robinson Superior Treaty Area (Lake Superior Region), 19 First Nations in the Robinson-Huron Treaty Area and 13 First Nations in Southwestern and Southeastern Ontario make up the Union of Ontario Indians.

Population Represented

The total 1986 registered population of the 38 First Nations represented is 21,790. Of that total 13,160 live on reserve, 8,630 live off reserve.[2]

Organizational Objectives

The Union of Ontario Indians' objectives are as follows:

a) "To conduct, hold and promote meetings and conferences to determine and express common needs and concerns of First Nations in Ontario;

b) To foster, advance and stimulate interest in, and promote the preservation and developement of the history and native culture of First Nations and the commencement and the maintenance of programs for the conservation thereof by such means as may from time to time seem expedient including research, publication, education and the establishment and maintenance of educational activities, agencies or institutions and the aid of such activities, agencies or institutions already established;

c) To maintain and secure, by social, educational and political action, fulfillment of all First Nations' treaties and treaty rights. To promote legislation affecting the rights of First Nations; to oppose or support, as the case may be, any contemplated legislation by federal, provincial, municipal or other authorities, insofar as the same may affect the rights of all First Nations.

d) To endeavor to achieve a closer relationship and better understanding among the various branches of government (federal, provincial and municipal) and the First Nations' people, their needs and concerns;

e) To receive and maintain funding and the right to apply, from time to time, all or part thereof of funds for the attainment of the above objectives;[3]

f) To represent the membership in constitutional discussions and negotiations, which ultimately will provide the federal/provincial governments the wisdom to see First Nations exercise their right of self-government."[4]

Organizational Programs

Programs administered by the Union include:[5]

Rights and Treaty Research

Socio-Economic Development (Education, Housing, Economic Development, Community Development)

Health and Environment

Social Services

Intergovernmental Affairs

Contact

For further information please contact:

President or Program Manager
Union of Ontario Indians
27 Queen Street East, 2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2M6
Telephone (416) 366-3527

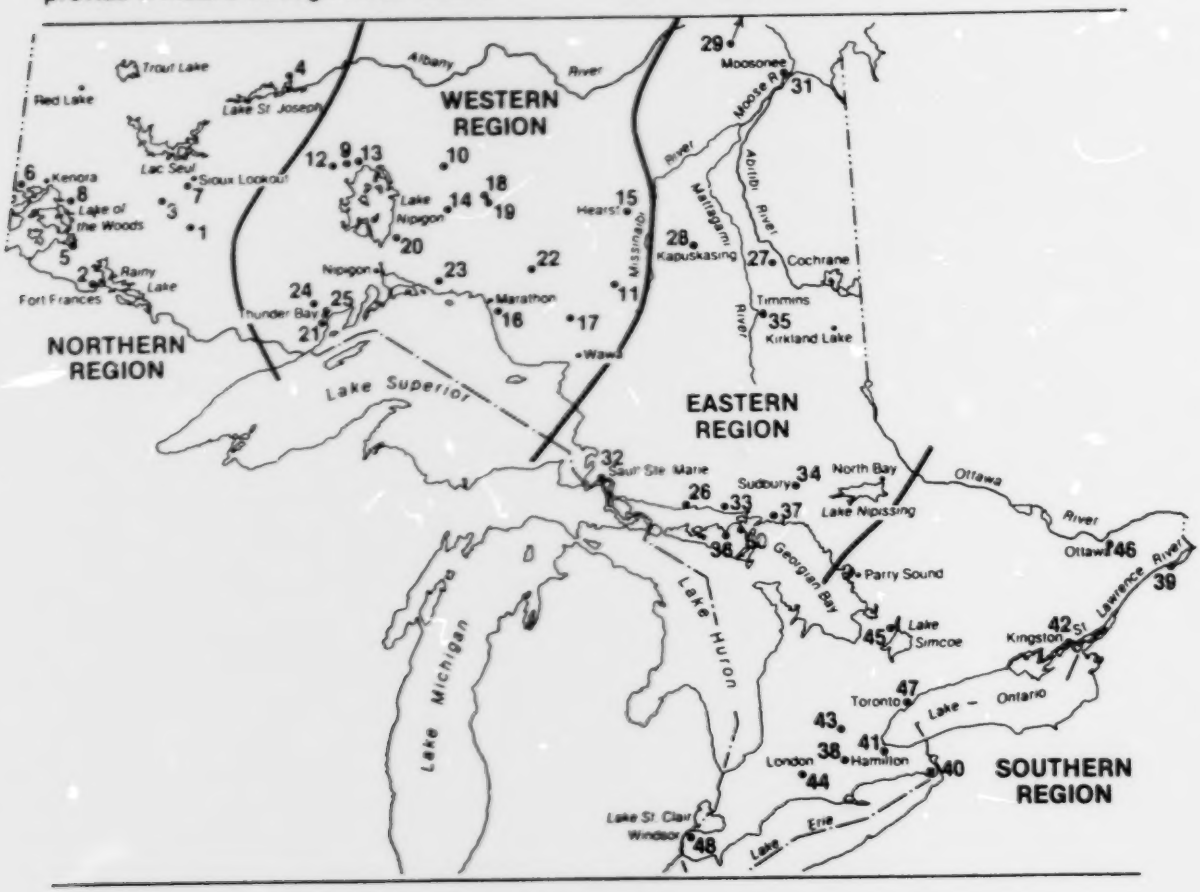
2 Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Registered Band Population as at October 31, 1986

3 Union of Ontario Indians 1978
4 Union of Ontario Indians 1982
5 Union of Ontario Indians 1986

Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA)

General Description

The Ontario Native Women's Association was founded in May 1972, and serves as a leadership development vehicle for Native women in Ontario. It is a provincial association whose primary objective is to provide a means through which Native women of the province can make a contribution of ideas and use their potential as community leaders in the social, political, economic and cultural development of their respective communities.



Membership

Membership as of November 1986:

49 Anishinabequek Locals of ONWA are located in the following communities.

Northern Region
– 8 locals

1 Dryden
2 Fort Frances
3 Manitou Rapids
4 Osnaburgh
5 Sabaskong
6 Shoal Lake
7 Sioux Lookout
8 Whitefish Bay*

Western Region
– 17 locals

9 Armstrong
10 Aroland*
11 Calstock
12 Collins
13 Ferland*
14 Geraldton
15 Hearst*
16 Heron Bay/ Marathon
17 Hornepayne
18 Longlac 58
19 Longlac 77
20 MacDiarmid
21 Mt. McKay
22 Nakina*
23 Pays Plat
24 Squaw Bay
25 Thunder Bay

Eastern Region
– 12 locals

26 Blind River
27 Cochrane
28 Kapuskasing
29 Kaschachewan
30 Little Current
31 Moosonee
32 Sault Ste. Marie
33 Spanish*
34 Sudbury
35 Timmins
36 West Bay
37 Whitefish*

Southern Region
– 12 locals

38 Brantford
39 Cornwall
40 Fort Erie
41 Hamilton
42 Kingston
43 Kitchener*
44 London
45 Orillia
46 Ottawa
47 Toronto (2)
48 Windsor

*Affiliated locals but inactive

Geographic Area

ONWA is a provincial organization as indicated by the distribution of its Locals.

Population Represented

As of October 1986, ONWA had a membership of 49 locals. ONWA represents the interests of all Native women in Ontario.

Organizational Objectives

ONWA's objectives are as follows:

a) "To create a forum through which Native women can become involved in the solution of their problems and promotion of their interests.
b) To help Native women increase their feeling of adequacy and their sense of responsibility through planning, developing and managing self-projects.
c) To provide a means through which Native women can make a contribution of ideas and skills to the social, political, cultural and economic development of Canadian Indian society.
d) To provide a means through which Native women can assist in identifying those ways which are unique to the Indian culture and through which their role in teaching these ideas to their children can be strengthened.
e) To encourage Native women to assume a more positive and active part in developing skills to support their people in the achievement of their rightful place in society.
f) To provide a communication link between Native women through which they can share and exchange ideas, through which they can relate to each other more fruitfully and support each other adequately in fulfilling their roles.
g) To provide a means through which Indian women can rediscover and develop those traditional skills which have been unique to the Native culture."[1]

Organizational Structure

At the 12th Annual Assembly in October 1986, a new structure was adopted. ONWA is now comprised of four regions – Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western. Four Directors are elected from each region. As well one Youth Representative is elected at the annual assembly. Elected Directors hold office for a two-year term.

Role of the Organization

The provincial organization properly represents the views of Native women in Ontario. The Association has the mandate to carry out the following: to ensure that the aims and objectives at the provincial organization are in effect; to act to preserve the future of the movement by organizing women in the province; to encourage the involvement of Native women at all levels of social, economic, recreational, cultural and political activity; to seek out the resources required to carry out the above; to act as a co-ordinating body for the activities it chooses to involve itself in; and lastly to ensure that all levels of government, all Native organizations, and the public itself are aware of its existence and its members.

Role of the Local Affiliate Chapters

The locals affiliated with the provincial body are the basis of the organization. The locals play a significant role in the provincial organization because they accept the charter of the Ontario Native Women's Association. The locals are autonomous in nature. They determine their community needs and priorities and develop programs and activities to work towards a better community life.

Contact

For further information please contact:

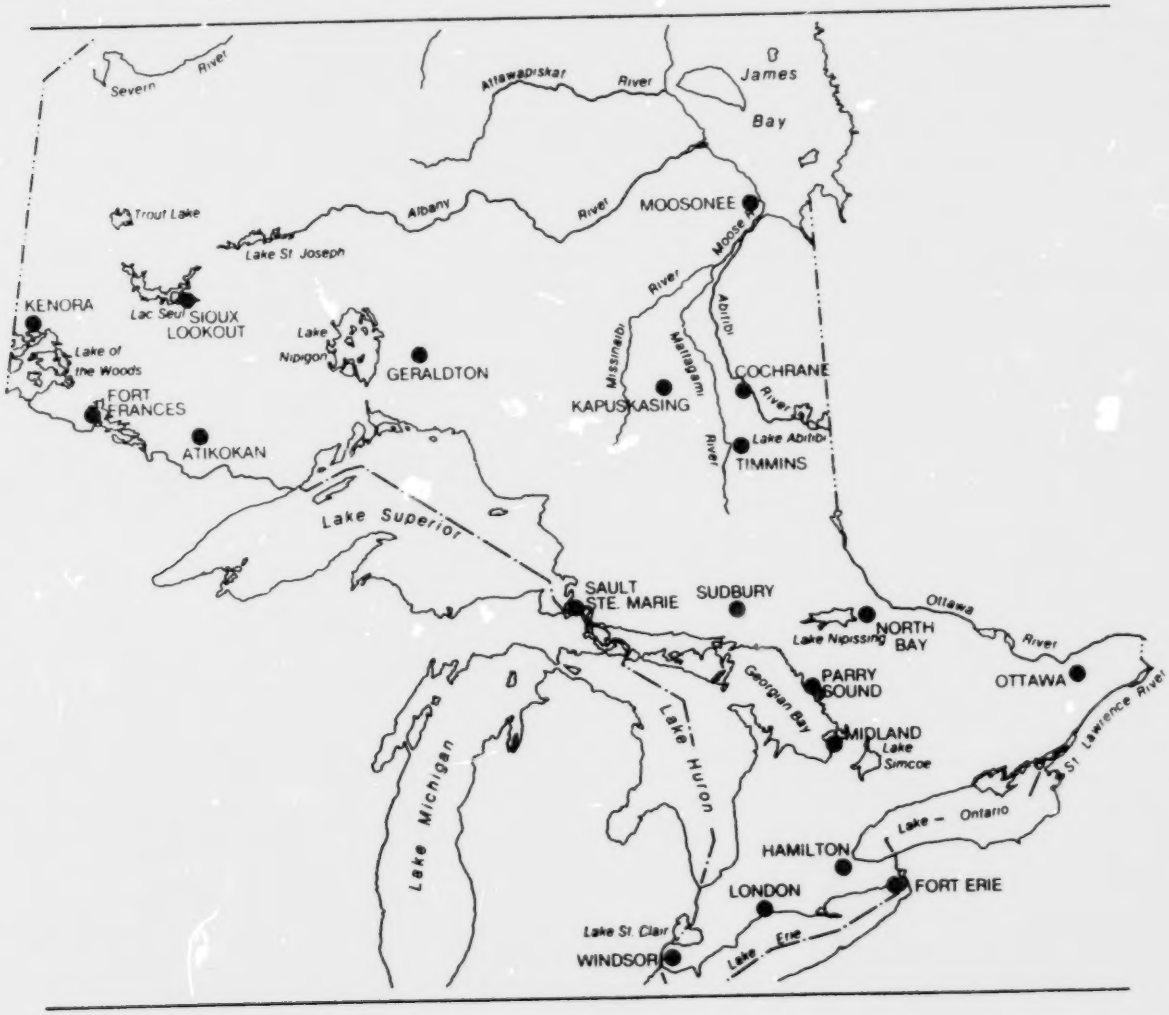
President or Provincial Co-ordinator
Ontario Native Women's Association
278 Bay Street
Thunder Bay 'P', Ontario P7B 1R8
Tel: 1 (807) 345-9821 or 1 (807) 345-6862

1 Ontario Native Women's Association, 1986

Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC)

General Description

The Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres is an umbrella organization representing the interests of 19 Indian Fellowship Centres in Ontario. These centres, the first of which was founded in 1961, provide basic human services (social, recreational, cultural, referral) to Native peoples within the urban setting. The Federation was formed in 1971.



Membership

The following Indian Friendship Centres are members of the federation: [1]

Atikokan Native Friendship Centre – **Atikokan**
Ininew Friendship Centre – **Cochrane**
Fort Erie Indian Friendship Centre – **Fort Erie**
United Native Friendship Centre – **Fort Frances**
Thunderbird Friendship Centre – **Geraldton**
Hamilton Regional Indian Friendship Centre – **Hamilton**
Ne'Chee Friendship Centre – **Kenora**
N'Amerind Friendship Centre – **London**
Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre – **Midland**
Moosonee Friendship Centre – **Moosonee**
North Bay Friendship Centre – **North Bay**
Odawa Native Friendship Centre – **Ottawa**
Parry Sound Indian Friendship Centre – **Parry Sound**
Sault Ste. Marie Friendship Centre – **Sault Ste. Marie**
Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre – **Sioux Lookout**
N'Swakamok Friendship Centre – **Sudbury**
Timmins Native Friendship Centre – **Timmins**
Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre of Windsor – **Windsor**
Kapuskasing Indian Friendship Centre – **Kapuskasing**

1 Ontario Federation Indian Friendship Centres, 1986.

Organizational Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the Federation shall be:

1. To further the aims and objectives of the member Centres through:

a) negotiation with government, civic and religious organizations regarding matters of concern to member Centres collectively, without depriving any Centre of its right to negotiate with such organizations on its own behalf;
b) provision of assistance to any Centre in matters directly related to the Centre when requested to do so by the Centre especially in the areas of: cultural awareness, information, programming, community development, funding services and management;
c) dissemination of information concerning the Centres to Native people and to the general public;
d) establishment of better communications between Centres;
e) development of resources and training initiatives.

2. To promote the development of new Centres.
3. To act as the sole representative of the member Centres of Ontario on any committees, boards or working groups as the member Centres or Federation's Board of Directors direct.
4. To act as the sole representative of the member Centres on the Board of Directors of any national association of Friendship Centres.
5. To provide such direct services and programs as are deemed appropriate by the member Centres of the Federation's Board of Directors.

Organizational Programmes

In addition to direct services provided to member Friendship Centres, and liaison with other aborginal organizations, the OFIFC coordinates the Native Courtwork Program of Ontario and the Native Family Courtwork Program. Training services are provided for Friendship Centre Boards and staff, Native Courtworkers (Criminal and Family), Native Community Development Workers and Li'l Beavers Coordinators.

The OFIFC is involved with the Ontario Native Council on Justice and federal/ provincial government working groups as are consistent with the development and advancement of Friendship Centres' aims and objectives.

Contact

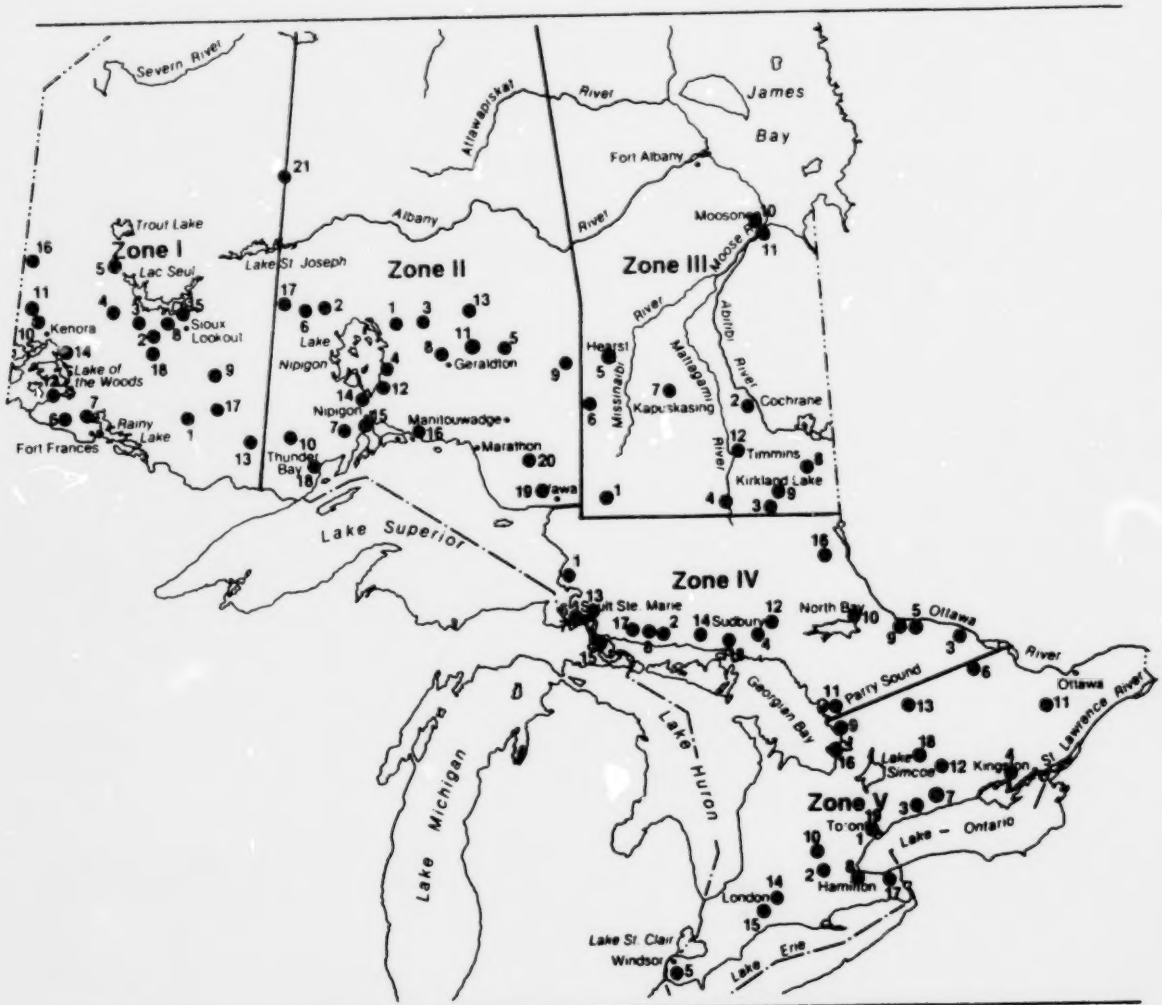
For further information please contact:

President or Executive Director
Ontario Federation of Indian
Friendship Centres
Suite 207
234 Eglinton Avenue East
Toronto, Ontario
M4P 1K5
Telephone: 1 (416) 484-1411

Ontario Metis & Non-Status Indian Association (OMNSIA)

General Description

The Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association was established in 1971 and represents the interests of Metis and non-status Indians in Ontario. It is a provincial organization with local associations (called Locals) across the province. Administratively, the province is split into five zones. Each zone elects board representatives who with an elected executive make up the Board of Directors of OMNSIA.



Membership

As of November 1986, OMNSIA had a membership of 114 Locals as follows:[1]

Zone 1 (Northwestern Ontario)

1 Atikokan (3)*
2 Dinorwic
3 Dryden (3)*
4 Eagle River
5 Ear Falls
6 Emo
7 Fort Frances
8 Hudson
9 Ignace
10 Kenora
11 Minaki
12 Morson
13 Raith
14 Sioux Lookout (2)*
15 Sioux Narrows
16 Umferville
17 Upsala
18 Wabigoon

1 Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association, 1986

Zone 2 (North of Lake Superior)

1 Auden
2 Armstrong (3)*
3 Aroland
4 Beardmore
5 Caramat
6 Collins
7 Dorion (2)*
8 Geraldton (2)*
9 Hearst
10 Kakabeka Falls
11 Little Longlac
12 Macdiarmid
13 Nakina
14 Nipigon
15 Red Rock
16 Rossport
17 Savant Lake
18 Thunder Bay (4)*
19 Wawa (2)*
20 White River
21 Windigo

Zone 3 (Northern Ontario)

1 Chapleau
2 Cochrane
3 Elk Lake
4 Gogama
5 Hearst
6 Hornepayne
7 Kapuskasing
8 Kirkland Lake
9 Matachewan
10 Moosonee
11 Moose Factory
12 Timmins (2)*

Zone 4 (Northeastern Ontario)

1 Batchewana Bay
2 Blind River (2)*
3 Chalk River
4 Copper Cliff
5 Deux Rivieres
6 Goulais Bay
7 Goulais River
8 Iron Bridge
9 Mattawa (3)*
10 North Bay (2)*
11 Nobel
12 Sudbury (2)*
13 Sault Ste. Marie (6)*
14 Spanish
15 Richards Landing
16 Temagami
17 Thessalon
18 Whitefish Falls

Zone 5 (Southern/Central Ontario)

1 Bramalea
2 Cambridge
3 Campbellcroft
4 Deseronto
5 Essex
6 Golden Lake
7 Gores Landing
8 Hamilton
9 Honey Harbour
10 Kitchener (2)*
11 Lanark
12 Lakefield
13 Lake St. Peter
14 London (2)*
15 Muncey
16 Port McNicoll
17 St. Catharines
18 Upper Buckhorn Lake
19 Willowdale

*Indicates number of locals in one community.

Geographic Area

The Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association serves the entire province.

Population Represented

Any resident of Ontario who is 18 years of age, of Aboriginal descent, Metis or Non-Status Indian, is eligible for full membership. As of October 1986, OMNSIA Locals had an active membership of 10,000. OMNSIA estimates the total Metis and Non-Status Indian population in Ontario from 210,000 to 230,000.

Organizational Objectives

OMNSIA's objectives are as follows:

a) "To carry out programs consistent with those of a charitable non-profit organization for the social, cultural, educational and economic advancement of the Metis and Non-Status Indian people of Ontario.
b) To inform the general public of Ontario of the aims and objectives of the Association, and to secure the cooperation of the non-Native community in our struggle for identity and recognition in Canadian society.
c) To assist the Metis and Non-Status Indian people of Ontario to organize at the local level to affiliate with the Association for the purpose of actively participating in the development of their communities.
d) Specifically to engage, as an Association, in programs designed to assist in furthering the educational opportunities and employment opportunities of the Metis and Non-Status Indians of Ontario, and, wherever possible, to obtain or raise funds from any source for these purposes.
e) To develop and operate in conjunction with federal, provincial and municipal agencies a housing program designed to provide safe, healthy, adequate shelter for the Native people of Ontario.
f) To cooperate with all other Native organizations whose aims and objectives are similar to those of the Association.
g) Generally, to assist in the improvement of existing programs and services designed to meet the special needs of the Native people of Ontario."[1]

OMNSIA is also dedicated to establishing legislative recognition of the identity and Aboriginal rights of all persons of Native ancestry in the Province of Ontario. Lobbying for Constitutional recognition is a recent priority of the Association, as is the establishment of "Special Status" for people of Native ancestry in provincial legislation.[2]

Organizational Programs

OMNSIA runs the following programs:

Child Welfare
Constitution – Self-Government
Bill C-31
The Voice (Newsletter)
Education
OMNSIA Development Corporation

Contact

For further information please contact:

The President
Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association
Suite 202, 369 Queen Street East
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
P6A 1Z4

Telephone: (705) 949-5161 (head office)

Toll free from area codes:
807, 819, 814 1-800-461-0803
416, 613, 516 1-800-461-5112
705 1-800-461-5104

1 Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association, 1978; revised 1980
2 IBID

Ontario Native Council on Justice

General Description

The Ontario Native Council on Justice has been in existence since 1975. It evolved from the Ontario Native Advisory Committee to the Criminal Justice System. This Committee was established in April 1975 as a result of a specific recommendation from the Edmonton Federal-Provincial Conference on Native Peoples and the Criminal Justice System held in February of 1975. In late 1976 the Committee was restructured to ensure Native control. In the spring of 1977 the Committee was funded by a grant from the Indian Community Secretariat on behalf of the Provincial Secretariat for Justice and the name was changed to the Ontario Native Council on Justice. The grant enabled the Council to open an office, to hire staff who would be responsible to its member Native organizations and to conduct its own research on Justice issues.

Membership

The Council is truly a Native body. The Council recognizes that justice issues are part of the broader social and political issues of Native people. Thus membership is extended to those organizations of a regional or provincial base, which address a variety of policy, program and service issues. Organizations of a local or single purpose, such as an individual Band council, friendship centre, or service agency, are ineligible for membership.

The following Native organizations have two voting delegates on the Council:

Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Grand Council Treaty No. 3

Nishnawbe-Aski Nation

Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association

Ontario Native Women's Association

Union of Ontario Indians

In addition to this core membership, the Native Law Students' Association has two voting delegates to the Council. Also, the Council may invite two Native inmates from provincial correctional institutions to attend Council meetings as voting delegates.

Organizational Objectives

The objectives of the Ontario Native Council on Justice are:

a) To act in the development of justice policy and legislation pertaining to Native people and in so doing to identify differences and prob.ems and to propose solutions;

b) To encourage the initiation and development of justice-related programs which are designed and operated by and for Native people;

c) To conduct and publish research on justice-related areas of concern to Native people;

d) To make recommendations and presentations to individual ministries in the justice policy field, the Cabinet Committee on Justice and any other provincial and federal ministries or departments or organizations on federal and provincial justice-related issues;

e) To provide information and consultation on a regular and formal basis among organizations representing Native people throughout Ontario;

f) To initiate and maintain contacts between the Native people and the ministries and agencies that make up the justice system;

g) To endeavour to foster an environment within the justice system which recognizes, understands and supports Native cultural distinctiveness;

h) To explore alternative justice delivery systems which have relevance for Native people;

i) To assess and evaluate the effectiveness of existing justice services to Native people;

j) To explore the implications and to encourage the most appropriate interpretation and application of proposed and existing legislation to meet Native needs and priorities.

Contact

For further information please contact:

Chairperson or Executive Director
Ontario Native Council on Justice
100 Adelaide Street West
Suite 705
Toronto, Ontario M5H 1S3

Telephone: (416) 367-1640

The Native Community Branch

What is the Native Community Branch?

The Native Community Branch consults and works with Native communities and organizations to support aspirations for self-reliance and economic independence.

Branch activities are aimed at expanding the Native economy, strengthening social stability, developing human resources, improving access to government, and preserving the traditional Native heritage.

How The Native Community Branch Operates

The Native Community Branch provides support and assistance through 10 field offices which serve over 500 Native communities and organizations. Travelling field consultants provide service to a population estimated at 110,000. This presence at the local level opens up communications and improves understanding between Native people and the provincial government.

What Does The Native Community Branch Do?

Programs of the branch include consultative assistance, research and information, publications, policy advisory services, and grants.

Native Community grants are a development tool to assist with Native-initiated cultural, social development, or leadership projects. Ontario Native Economic Support Program (ONESP) grants respond specifically to the economic and community facility development needs of Ontario's Native peoples.

Contact

For further information please contact:

Director
Native Community Branch
Ministry of Citizenship and Culture
5th Floor, 77 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9

Telephone: (416) 965-5003
965-5004

or your local community resource officer at the following addresses:

Northeast and South Area

SUDBURY
Area Supervisor's Office,
4th Fl.
200 Elm Street E.
Sudbury, Ontario
P3C 5N3
Tel: (705) 675-4349
Toll Free – 1-800-461-4027

TIMMINS
22 Wilcox St. 2nd Fl.
Timmins, Ontario
P4N 3K6
Tel: (705) 267-8018

SAULT STE. MARIE
Elgin Tower, 3rd Fl.
390 Bay Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
P6A 1X2
Tel: (705) 942-0419

ORILLIA
15 Matchedash St. N.
Orillia, Ontario
L3V 4T4
Tel: (705) 325-9561

LONDON
255 Dufferin Ave.
Suite 601
London, Ontario
N6A 5K6
Tel: (519) 679-7146

TORONTO/HAMILTON/
OTTAWA
77 Bloor St. W., 5th Fl.
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9
Tel: (416) 965-5003

Northwest Area

THUNDER BAY
Area Supervisor's Office
1825 East Arthur St.
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7E 5N7
Tel: (807) 475-1683

KENORA
3rd Fl.
227 Second Street S.
Kenora, Ontario
P9N 1G1
Tel: (807) 468-5568

FORT FRANCES
Box 613
2nd Fl.
240 Scott Street
Fort Frances, Ontario
P9A 3M9
Tel: (807) 274-9732

GERALDTON
Box 778
303 Main St. E.
Geraldton, Ontario
P0T 1M0
Tel: (807) 854-0169